

Human Services Funding Committee / Community Development Committee (CDC)
August 18, 2009

Committee Members Attending: Mary Jane Laus, Lewis Rudolph, Paulette Brooks, Isaac BenEzra, Claude Tellier attended the full meeting. Jana McClure arrived at 6:00 p.m.
Town Staff: Roy Rosenblatt

The Tuesday, August 18, 2009 Community Development Committee met in first floor Meeting Room in Town Hall beginning at 5:35 p.m. Ms. Laus chaired the meeting. The July Public Hearing notes will be distributed when completed. Amherst Leisure Services [LSSE] submitted a request for \$30,871.75 for low and moderate income scholarships with the intention to increase their enrollment. The committee discussed the documentation required by the State as well as confidentiality protocols for LSSE. Mr. Rosenblatt will discuss the issues with the Town Manager and report back to the committee.

- Mary Jane Laus moved to support Amherst Leisure Service's request for funding. Isaac BenEzra seconded. The vote was unanimous to support LSSE's request for funding with CDBG funds.

Mr. Rosenblatt updated the committee on progress for the North Amherst School renovations. Because the town received a waiver and is not required to build a ramp for the building, funds not used will be available for distribution from the 2008 CDBG funding. Another public hearing is needed for the approximately \$140,000 unused by the North Amherst School project. Mr. Rosenblatt will research whether there is a deadline for expenditures to be completed.

The committee discussed both renters' and homeowners' needs in the present economic crisis. Mr. Rosenblatt will contact Michelle Morris from the Valley CDC, because she works with families in crisis, and will request an assessment of the community needs. Other state funds for housing are available for community action / tenancy eviction but would be county wide in scope. The committee discussed working with other organizations and committees to secure funds for Amherst's emergency assistance needs.

The committee will need to begin public hearings for 2010 CDBG grant submission, although it is not clear whether the town will maintain its "mini-entitlement" status. Olympia Drive affordable housing and/or Amherst Survival Center building were discussed as prospective ideas for the 2010 CDBG funding, if available.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paulette Brooks